

Mississippi, Choctaw Health Center of Philadelphia, MI, and the Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma of Durant, OK. All participants have unanimously expressed success and satisfaction with the demonstration program and report that dramatically increased collections for Medicare and Medicaid services, thereby providing additional revenues for Indian health programs at these facilities; significant reduction in the turn-around time between billing and receipt of payment; and increased efficiency by being able to track down their own billings and collections and thereby act quickly to resolve questions and problems.

The IHS is required to monitor participation and receive quarterly reports from the four participants. The law also requires the IHS to report to Congress on the demonstration program on September 30, 1996, the end of fiscal year 1996. This report is to evaluate whether the objective have been fulfilled, and whether direct billing should be allowed for other tribal providers who operate an entire IHS facility.

All four participants seek to extend the demonstration program authority for 2 more years to give Congress time to review the report IHS must submit on September 30, 1996, and determine the future of the program.

Without the extension, the four participants would have to close down their direct billing-collection departments and return to the old system of IHS-managed collections. This would mean the dismantling of highly specialized administrative staff and would have an immediate negative impact on revenue collection.

This is a technical amendment to extend the program in 2 more years so that the existing participants can continue their direct billing collection efforts while the required report from the IHS is reviewed.

**CODY JESSE CRAIG ATTAINS  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**

**HON. CHARLES WILSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 1996*

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to present to you Cody Jesse Craig who, on February 20, 1996, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank awarded in the Boy Scouts of America. The achievement of the Eagle Scout rank for any young person is indeed a major accomplishment that eloquently addresses their personal character, diligence, initiative, tenacity, and many other equally desirable characteristics that we all admire in individuals. The factor that focuses the attention on his personal victory and sets him apart from most of the recipients of the Eagle Scout rank is that he is 15 years old; starting his scouting when he was 6 years old, subsequently earning every award offered as he progressed from the Cubs, Webelos, and on to the Boy Scouts. He obviously is a goal-oriented young man who has a bright and exciting future.

In addition to being an outstanding Boy Scout, Cody is an honor student who has been recognized by the Duke University Talent Search. In this hour of troubled times for many of the youth of America, Cody is truly a Point of Light that illuminates a living example and role model for other young people to emulate.

**TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU PRATT**

**HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 1996*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a woman who has worked tirelessly to make the lives of our disabled veterans a little brighter. Mrs. Mary Lou Platt of Westford, NY, is the New York State president of the American Legion Auxiliary, and a member of the Milford Unit #1566.

The American Legion Auxiliary has been helping veterans and their families for more than 75 years and Mrs. Pratt has proudly kept up that tradition. President Pratt has developed a program called RAVE which stands for recreation, audio and visual entertainment.

Many hospitalized veterans spend endless hours in their rooms or on hospital grounds. Some used to enjoy reading, but now find it difficult or impossible due to poor eyesight. Others used to enjoy listening to music on their radios, but can now only hear faint sounds. Even watching television can be difficult for many of these veterans.

President Platt has traveled extensively throughout New York's 62 counties helping veterans with her program. RAVE has provided veterans with large print books for easier reading, audio books for those who can no longer read, and VCR's and videos. RAVE even provides some video games and equipment to stimulate veterans both physically and emotionally. This program has benefited veterans in New York State VA medical centers and nursing homes.

Our veterans have sacrificed too much for their country to be left as prisoners of unproductive and frustrating lives. President Platt is trying to see that this does not happen. I think we should all RAVE about President Platt and the efforts of the American Legion Auxiliary.

**NATIONAL HEAD START DAY**

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 1996*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to National Head Start Day. Head Start demonstrates the type of innovate, cost-efficient, and proactive solution necessary to address the national dilemma facing economically disadvantaged preschoolers. The holistic approach taken by Head Start addresses the needs of both parent and child. Preschoolers are provided with educational, health and social service support, while parental involvement ensures support networks for parents.

Extensive studies in child development have shown that a quality early childhood experience returns anywhere from \$5 to \$7 for every dollar invested. We also know that one-third more children who attend quality early childhood programs graduate from high schools, as opposed to those children who did not have the benefits of programs such as Head Start. Without question, the future of America's poorest children is brighter because of the work of Head Start. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work of Head Start.

**IN HONOR OF SAM GIBBONS**

SPEECH OF

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 1996*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly respected 34-year veteran of the U.S. Congress. SAM GIBBONS has served the people of our great State of Florida and his Tampa congressional district with honor and distinction. Having demonstrated exceptional leadership in this extensive time span, he is well-deserved of recognition.

Serving our country in World War II, SAM proved to be a genuine hero as he took part in the parachute landing behind German lines on the Normandy coast the night before D-day. It was with this same vigor that he worked as a freshman Member of Congress to pass the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

As an outstanding leader and public servant, SAM has rendered vital assistance in a number of important matters. In 1966, he succeeded in getting the House Education and Labor Committee to meet and vote in open sessions. He later went on to write the first formal rules for that committee and also the Ways and Means Committee.

In the early 1970's, SAM championed the initiative that ended the practice of anonymous voting on the floor of the House. Twenty years later, as chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, he was instrumental in crafting the two biggest trade agreements in history—NAFTA and GATT.

SAM GIBBONS has dedicated most of his life to improving this great Nation of ours. What is even more incredible is the fact that he raised three children and four grandchildren while doing so. Serving as a Congressman, a role model, and a good friend of mine, SAM has achieved the esteemed status of a truly great man. His image is impressed upon our hearts and will serve as an inspiration for leaders yet to come.

**THE FIRST HISPANIC WOMEN'S  
HEALTH CONFERENCE**

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 1996*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to help the Nation's health care system better serve the Hispanic population, the First Hispanic Women's Health Conference will be held in the Knight Center on May 9 and 10.

It is sponsored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in collaboration with the Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers of Dade County and the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Hispanic women have a number of health problems that are complicated by the cultural differences. A doctor who is unaware of the culture framework of her patients will find her job that much harder.

For example, cancer carries a greater stigma in Hispanic populations, which results in a lack of early detection and the complications that then follow.